



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

**PLEASE COPY THIS FOR ALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**

### **IN YOUR PRACTICE**

**TO:** All Users of State Supplied Vaccine  
**FROM:** Mick Bolduc-Vaccines For Children (VFC) Coordinator MB  
**DATE:** October 20, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Update on October Influenza and DTaP/IPV Vaccine Orders

The primary purpose of this communication is to update you on the status of your October vaccine order for influenza and DTaP/IPV vaccines.

#### **Influenza Vaccine**

The supply of seasonal influenza vaccine continues to filter into the Immunization Program on a daily basis. We are filling as much of your order as possible throughout the course of each month, which may result in you receiving several shipments of flu vaccine during the month. In October, each office should have already received 100 % of their FluMist request and approximately 20-25 % of their .25 syringe request for infants 6-35 months old. Flu orders for the .5 presentations for children 3-18 years old are being filled and shipped this week with all providers receiving 100 % of their request.

Providers are reminded that they should continue to order influenza vaccine monthly throughout the course of the flu season. If you have excess doses of seasonal flu vaccine, please contact our office to make arrangements for the transfer of the extra doses you have in inventory to another provider. We appreciate the stress that the flu season places on you and your staff and thank you for your patience.

#### **DTaP/IPV**

At the current time the VFC supply of Glaxo SmithKline's DTaP/IPV vaccine (Kinrix) has been depleted at our McKesson distribution center. The vaccine manufacturer expects to re-supply Kinrix by the end of October. Please be advised that if you ordered any Kinrix this month it will not be shipped to you. We expect to resume providing Kinrix for your November order. In the interim, providers may have to use separate doses of DTaP and IPV vaccines.

#### **Varicella**

CDC is in the process of piloting a new vaccine ordering system called VTrkS in six states (but not in Connecticut). In order to implement the new system no varicella orders will be filled for a 2-3 week period beginning on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Due to the Christmas holiday providers should assume that varicella vaccine shipments from Merck may not be

available during the entire month of December. Providers should plan accordingly and place varicella orders in November to cover their anticipated need for November, December, and January.

### **Vaccine Deliveries**

As everyone is aware the cost of vaccines continues to increase rapidly each year. Nationally, the VFC Program is approximately a \$4 billion a year program therefore it is imperative to keep vaccine wastage to a minimum. As a reminder vaccine shipments to your office can arrive at any time during the course of a given month. Each provider office has indicated on their provider profile the days and hours they are available to accept vaccine shipments. If a vaccine shipment is made during those hours and the office is not available to accept shipment, you are financially liable for the contents of that shipment and will be required to replace any spoiled vaccine at your cost. If your office will be closed for any day or time other than what is listed on your provider profile, it is your responsibility to contact the Immunization Program.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.